

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action issued October 17, 2005, claims 1-5 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5825949 to Choy et al (Choy) in view of Figure 2 of the present application.

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are now pending in this application. The claims have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The present invention, for example, according to claim 1 as amended, requires that first and second receiving sections are designed to receive pluggable transceiver modules of a standardized size, where the receiving sections are a part of an interface device. The different transceiver modules can be plugged into the respective receiving section and unplugged therefrom in a quick-connect manner, i.e. the transceiver modules can simply be plugged into the receiving sections in a similar manner to a normal electric plug being plugged and unplugged from a wall socket. This fact is clear from the description, see in particular page 3, lines 28-31; page 6, lines 9-13; page 10, lines 11-16 and page 11, lines 20-23.

Typically, the interface device is formed by a circuit card. This card thus has plug-in means ("receiving sections") for contacting pluggable transceivers in a quick-connect manner. The present invention provides a much simplified manner of connecting a subscriber unit to a fiber optic communication network with the help of an interface device. In particular, it is clear from claim 1 that a specific electric transceiver module is provided, and, furthermore, that this electric transceiver module is used in the method

according to claim 1 instead of one of the opto-electric transceiver modules for which the interface device was originally intended.

CHOY does not teach these limitations recited by claim 1. The card shown in fig. 3A in CHOY includes both a transmitter (laser 46) and a receiver (detector 56). Accordingly, the card having the detector and laser shown in fig. 3A could therefore be considered as a kind of transceiver module. However, if the card having the detector and laser thereon is a transceiver module, then there is no teaching of a receiving section that is designed to receive a transceiver module (i.e., the card having the detector and laser) that can be plugged into and unplugged from the receiving section. Accordingly, the card of fig. 3A does therefore not disclose any receiving section adapted to receive a transceiver module as defined in claim 1.

In addition, if the card having the detector and laser of fig. 3A can be considered as a kind of transceiver module, it would certainly not be obvious for the card to have a receiving section adapted to receive another transceiver module that can be plugged into or unplugged from the card in a quick-connect manner. Furthermore, fig. 3A discloses that the detector 56 is separate from the laser 46. For the transceiver limitation to be met requires that the card constitute a transceiver module. The detector or laser taken alone does not constitute a transceiver as defined in the present claim 1. Furthermore, even if the detector or laser taken alone could constitute a transceiver there is no indication in CHOY that the detector 56 or the laser 46 can be plugged into the card shown in fig. 3A and unplugged therefrom in a quick-connect manner.

Moreover, the examiner equates the card of fig. 2 in CHOY with the "first electric transceiver module" and the second receiving section. The same member in a prior art reference cannot be applied to two completely different entities in the claimed subject matter.

The cards of fig. 2 and 3A in CHOY are, according to CHOY, connected to each other, via a backplane, as part of the input to or the output from the gratings 24a and 24b as shown in fig. 1 in CHOY. The mentioned cards of fig. 2 and fig. 3A in CHOY are therefore not used in a similar manner to the receiving sections according to the present invention. It is therefore not possible to combine the teaching of CHOY with the prior art disclosed in fig. 1 and 2 of the present application in the manner suggested by the examiner. Please note that the present invention concerns a method in which, inter alia, a specifically designed electric transceiver module is used instead of an opto-electric transceiver module for connecting the interface device to the subscriber unit. No indication in this direction is disclosed in CHOY.

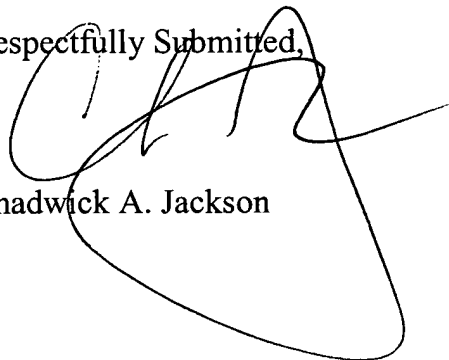
Furthermore, it can be noted that CHOY is concerned with a device for a WDM. However, it does not seem to be specified in CHOY that this device is adapted to be used in a CWDM system (i.e., a coarse wavelength division multiplexing system). In the present claim 1, on the other hand, it is specified in claim 1 that the interface device is adapted to function as an interface device in a CWDM system.

Filed: December 7, 2001

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections to the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all the claims remaining in the application. Should the Examiner feel further communication would facilitate prosecution, he is urged to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (19378.0019).

Respectfully Submitted,


Chadwick A. Jackson

Dated: April 7, 2006

Bingham McCutchen LLP
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 373-6661